

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00036 110848Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 SAM-01 /081 W
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R 110735Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1752

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 036

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, MU, YS

SUBJECT: LITTLE CHANGE APPARENT IN PDRY-DHOFAR BORDER MILITARY
SITUATION

REF: 75 MUSCAT 1452 (DTG 310400Z DEC 75)(NOTAL),
75 MUSCAT 1440 (DTG 280732Z DEC 75)

1. OUR CONVERSATIONS IN RECENT DAYS IN WITH RANKING SAF AND
DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE NOT ELICITED SIGNS OF UNDUE
CONCERN ABOUT NEAR-FUTURE AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS BY PDRY ALONG
DHOFAR BORDER. THEY SEEM RELAXED ABOUT MILITARY SITUATION.
CSAF GEN. PERKINS HIMSELF PLANS TWO-WEEK LEAVE IN FEBRUARY,
AND SOAF COMMANDER BENNETT IS PRESENTLY IN UK ON LEAVE.

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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00036 110848Z

2. EVEN SULTAN'S NORMALLY HAWKISH LIAISON OFFICER IN DEFMIN,

MAJOR SALIM AL-GHAZALI, SEEMED QUITE UNPERTURBED, THOUGH OBVIOUSLY KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH UPS AND DOWNS OF PDRY'S DAILY ARTILLERY SHELLING OF SARFAIT.

3. IN CONVERSATION JAN. 7 I TOLD FONMIN ZAWAWI I WAS INTRIGUED BY SULTAN QABOOS' INTENSE CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE PDRY MILITARY OFFENSIVE ACROSS BORDER IN DHOFAR, AS EVIDENCED BY HIS WIDELY PUBLICIZED PRESENTATION TO ARAB AMBASSADORS DEC. 23. AS SULTANATE'S SENIOR MILITARY ADVISERS SEEM TO CONSIDER MATTERS ALONG BORDER WELL IN HAND, I WONDERED IF DEC. 23 PRESENTATION HAD MAINLY A POLITICAL INTENT, SUCH AS TO MAINTAIN OUTSIDE ATTENTION ON OMAN AND NOT LET OTHER ARAB STATES THINK THEY NOW COULD FORGET ABOUT IT SIMPLY BECAUSE END OF THE WAR INSIDE DHOFAR HAD BEEN DECLARED IN EARLY DECEMBER.

4. ZAWAWI ADMITTED THERE MAY BE SOMETHING TO THIS, BUT ADDED THAT EVEN MORE TO THE POINT WAS THE SULTAN'S LONG PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH TROUBLEMAKING SOUTH YEMENI REGIME. HE SAID HM TAKES MORE SERIOUSLY THAN DO SOME OF THE MILITARY EXPERTS WHO COME FOR A COUPLE YEARS AND THEN LEAVE FOR OTHER ASSIGNMENTS THE CAPABILITY OF PDRY DECISION MAKERS TO DECIDE TO ATTACK EVEN WHEN CAREFUL ANALYSIS MIGHT SHOW THEY STOOD LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS. PDRY IS WELL ARMED, CONTINUED TO CLAIM SHATTERING SUCCESSES OF ARMS IN DHOFAR EVEN WHILE THEY AND THEIR PFLO FRIENDS WERE BEING CHASED OUT OF THE PROVINCE, AND IS REGARDED BY HM AS BENT ON WHATEVER MISCHIEF IT CAN CAUSE.

5. ZAWAWI ANSWERED IN NEGATIVE MY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WHETHER IN THE PERIOD DEC 11-23 OR FROM DEC. 23 TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN ANY INTELLIGENCE ALLEGING SIGNIFICANT NEW TROOP MOVEMENTS BY PDRY TOWARD OMANI BORDER, OR FURTHER INDICATING MALEVOLENT INTENTIONS BY THE SOUTH YEMENIS. HE STATED THAT WHILE SULTAN QABOOS HIMSELF BELIEVES CHANCES OF A PDRY ATTACK ON THE BORDER IS UNLIKELY RPT UNLIKELY, HE MUST GUARD CAREFULLY, AND WARN AS NECESSARY, OF THE POSSIBILITY IT WILL OCCUR, GIVEN THE ACTUAL ARMS EQUATION IN TERMS OF MILITARY STORES IN PLACE IN PDRY'S SIXTH GOVERNATE, AND GIVEN OMAN'S LONG EXPERIENCE OF ADENI ENMITY.

6. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT HELICOPTER CARRYING DHOFAR BRIGADE
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PAGE 03 MUSCAT 00036 110848Z

COMMANDER, BRIG. AKEHURST, DOWNED BY SMALL ARMS FIRE IN EASTERN DHOFAR JABAL AREA CHRISTMAS DAY. NO ONE HURT AS SOFT LANDING IN SECURE AREA WAS POSSIBLE.
WOLLE

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